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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF OREGON, PORTLAND DIVISION

TRUSTEES OF THE OREGON-WASHINGTON)
CARPENTERS-EMPLOYERS HEALTH AND)
WELFARE TRUST FUND, TRUSTEES OF THE)
OREGON-WASHINGTON CARPENTERS-)
EMPLOYERS PENSION TRUST FUND,)
TRUSTEES OF THE OREGON-WASHINGTON)
CARPENTERS-EMPLOYERS VACATION-)
SAVINGS TRUST FUND, TRUSTEES OF THE)
OREGON-WASHINGTON CARPENTERS-)
EMPLOYERS APPRENTICESHIP AND)
TRAINING TRUST FUND, TRUSTEES OF)
CARPENTERS INTERNATIONAL TRAINING)
FUND, and the PACIFIC NORTHWEST)
REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS,)

Plaintiffs,)

v.)

R & R GENERAL CONTRACTORS, INC.,)

Defendant.)
_____)

Civil No. _____

COMPLAINT (Breach of Collective
Bargaining Agreement and Violation
of ERISA)

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Plaintiffs allege:

I

THE PARTIES

1. Plaintiffs are the Trustees of the Oregon-Washington Carpenters-Employers Health and Welfare Trust Fund (Health Fund), the Oregon-Washington Carpenters-Employers Pension Trust Fund (Pension Fund), the Oregon-Washington Carpenters-Employers Vacation-Savings Trust Fund (Vacation Fund), the Oregon-Washington Carpenters-Employers Apprenticeship and Training Trust Fund (Local Training Fund), and the Carpenters International Training Fund (International Training Fund) (collectively, “Trust Funds”) and the Pacific Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters (Union).

2. The Health Fund, Vacation Fund, Local Training Fund and International Training Fund are “employee welfare benefit plans” as that term is defined in 29 U. S. C. §1002(1) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (ERISA). The Pension Fund is an “employee pension benefit plan” as that term is defined in 29 U.S.C. §1002(2)(A) of ERISA. Numerous employers pay fringe benefit contributions to the Trust Funds which are “multiemployer plans” as that term is defined in 29 U.S.C. §1002(37)(A) of ERISA. The Trustees of the Trust Funds have discretionary authority and control over the management of these Trust Funds and are “fiduciaries” of these Trust Funds as that term is defined in 29 U.S.C. §1002(21)(A) of ERISA.

3. The Union is a “labor organization” as that term is defined in 29 U.S.C. §152(5) of the Labor-Management Relations Act (“LMRA”) and has its principal office and place of business in Kent, Washington.

4. Defendant is an Oregon corporation. At all times material to this proceeding (September 2019, to date), defendant has been an “employer” as that term is defined in 29 U.S.C. §152(2) of the LMRA and 29 U.S.C. §1002(5) of ERISA and has been engaged in an “industry or activity affecting commerce” as that term is defined in 29 U.S.C. §§142(1) and (3) of the LMRA and 29 U.S.C. §1002(12) of ERISA.

II

JURISDICTION

5. The Court has jurisdiction over the Claim for Relief brought by the Trustees of the Trust Funds against defendant for violation of the provisions of 29 U.S.C. §§1132(a)(3) and 1145 of ERISA pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §1132(e)(1) of ERISA.

6. At all times material to this proceeding (September 2019, to date), a written collective bargaining agreement has existed between the Union and defendant. The collective bargaining agreement covers employees in an industry affecting commerce and the activities of defendant affect commerce. The Court has jurisdiction over the Claim for Relief brought by each plaintiff against defendant for breach of the collective bargaining agreement pursuant to the provisions of 29 U.S.C. §185(a) of the LMRA.

III

JOINDER

7. The obligations of defendant to plaintiffs arise out of the same collective bargaining agreement. Common questions of law and fact govern the claims each plaintiff has against defendant.

IV

COMMON FACTS

8. At all times material to this proceeding (September 2019, to date), defendant has been bound by a written collective bargaining agreement with the Union. Under the terms of the collective bargaining agreement, defendant agreed to be bound by the terms and conditions of the Trust Agreements which created the Trust Funds. Defendant further agreed to pay fringe benefit contributions on behalf of its employees performing work under the collective bargaining agreement to the Trustees of the Trust Funds, and to remit union dues to the Union. Defendant further agreed to file monthly remittance report forms and to pay fringe benefit contributions and union dues to the Trustees of the Trust Funds and Union by the 20th day of the month following the month in which the work was performed.

9. The Trust Agreements which created the Trust Funds (except the International Training Fund) provide that, in the event an employer fails to make a timely payment of fringe benefit contributions, the employer is liable for the delinquent fringe benefit contributions, interest on the delinquent or late paid fringe benefit contributions at the rate of 12 percent per annum from the date each contribution became due until paid and liquidated damages in an amount equal to one percent of the delinquent or late paid fringe benefit contributions for each month that the fringe benefit contributions are late or delinquent.

10. The Trust Agreement that created the International Training Fund provides that, in the event an employer fails to make a timely payment of fringe benefit contributions, the employer is liable for interest on the delinquent fringe benefit contributions at the rate of 1.5% per month, compounded monthly, from the date the contributions became due, until paid, and

liquidated damages in an amount equal to 20% of the late paid fringe benefit contributions, or the amount of interest owed, whichever amount is greater.

11. The Union is entitled to recover the union dues pursuant to the terms of the collective bargaining agreement, and interest on the delinquent or late paid union dues from the date payment became due until paid at the rate of nine percent per annum pursuant to the provisions of ORS 82.010.

V

CLAIM FOR RELIEF

12. Defendant has failed to file its September 2019 through November 2019 remittance report forms, and the time therefore has expired. Defendant should be required to file said remittance report forms, together with all report forms that become due throughout the pendency of this lawsuit, pay all delinquent fringe benefit contributions and union dues that are owed based on the information contained therein, pay interest on the delinquent fringe benefit contributions and union dues from the date each payment became due until paid, and pay liquidated damages on the delinquent fringe benefit contributions owed to the Trust Funds.

13. The Trust Agreements that created the Trust Funds provide that, in the event that an employer fails to timely pay fringe benefit contributions and legal proceedings are instituted, the Trustees of the Trust Funds are entitled to recover their reasonable attorney fees. The Trustees of the Trust Funds are entitled to recover their reasonable attorney fees from defendant.

14. The Trustees of the Trust Funds are entitled to recover their reasonable attorney fees from defendant pursuant to the provisions of 29 U.S.C. § 1132(g)(2)(D) of ERISA.

WHEREFORE, plaintiffs pray for a decree and judgment against defendant as follows:

1. Requiring defendant to file its September 2019 through November 2019 remittance report forms, together with all report forms that become due throughout the pendency of this lawsuit, pay all delinquent fringe benefit contributions and union dues that are owed based on the information contained therein, pay interest on the delinquent fringe benefit contributions and union dues from the date each payment became due until paid, and pay liquidated damages on the delinquent fringe benefit contributions owed to the Trustees of the Trust Funds;

2. Providing that plaintiffs shall retain the right to conduct a future payroll examination of defendant's books and records in order to ensure that all required fringe benefit contributions and union dues have been paid; and further, in the event the payroll examination reveals that delinquent fringe benefit contributions and/or dues are owed, providing that plaintiffs shall have the right to institute legal proceedings against defendant to recover the delinquent fringe benefit contributions and/or union dues found due and owing pursuant to the payroll examination report, together with liquidated damages, interest, payroll examination fees, attorney fees and court costs;

3. Requiring defendant to pay the Trustees of the Trust Funds their reasonable attorney fees;

4. Requiring defendant to pay plaintiffs' costs and disbursements incurred in this lawsuit; and

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5. For such further relief as the Court deems just and equitable.

DATED this 15th day of January 2020.

BROWNSTEIN RASK, LLP

/s/ Cary R. Cadonau
Cary R. Cadonau, OSB #002245
Attorney for Plaintiffs